

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (original). A process for increasing the optical purity of a mixture of enantiomers of nefopam by using a substantially single enantiomer of a *O, O*-diaroyltartaric acid as a resolving agent, via a bisnefopam salt of the acid.

2 (previously presented). The process according to claim 1, for preparing a substantially single enantiomer of nefopam by means of resolution of racemic nefopam.

3 (currently amended). The process according to claim 1, for preparing a substantially single enantiomer of nefopam, which comprises reverse resolution of racemic nefopam ~~or nefopam-analogue~~, using sequentially a single enantiomer of a *O, O*-dibenzoyltartaric acid and then the other enantiomer.

4 (previously presented). The process according to claim 1, for preparing substantially single enantiomer (+)-nefopam, which uses *O, O*-dibenzoyl-L-tartaric acid as the resolving agent.

5 (previously presented). The process according to claim 1, for preparing substantially single enantiomer (-)-nefopam, which uses *O, O*-dibenzoyl-D-tartaric acid as the resolving agent.

6 (previously presented). The process according to claim 1, which is conducted in a solvent selected from alcohols, esters, ketones and halogenated solvents.

7 (previously presented). The process according to claim 1, which comprises the further step of conversion of the salt obtained by the resolution to the free base form of nefopam or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8 (previously presented). The process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the resolving agent is less than 1 equivalent.

9 (previously presented). The process according to claim 8, wherein said amount is no more than 0.5 equivalent.

10 (original). A bisnefopam salt of a substantially single enantiomer of a *O,O*-diaryltartaric acid.

11 (previously presented). The salt according to claim 10, wherein the acid is *O, O*-dibenzoyltartaric acid.